

Message Text

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64

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9449

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2570

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, KS, VN

SUBJ: REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM

REF A. STATE 84084 B. SEOUL 2510

1. SITUATION OF CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE IN ROK DOES NOT APPEAR URGENT AND MANY OF THEM HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHAT TO DO IN EVENT OF COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF HOME COUNTRY. WHILE SOME MAY EVENTUALLY DESIRE TO RESETTLE IN US, THEIR OVERALL NUMBERS ARE FEW, AND ROKG IS LIKELY IN ANY EVENT TO ALLOW THEM AMPLE TIME FOR RESETTLEMENT.

2. CAMBODIANS: ACCORDING TO LIST PROVIDED BY KHMER AMBASSADOR (REFTEL), THERE ARE THIRY-FIVE CAMBODIANS IN ROK (INCLUDING FAMILIES), THIRTY OF WHOM ARE OFFICIALLY CONNECTED WITH KHMER EMBASSY. MOST OF THEM WILL PRESUMABLY WAIT TO SEE WHAT DEVELOPS IN CAMBODIA BEFORE DECIDING ON THEIR FUTURES.

3. VIETNAMESE: WHILE WE DO NOT YET HAVE EXACT COUNT OF VIETNAMESE IN ROK, THEY PROBABLY DO NOT NUMBER SIGNIFICANTLY MORE THAN CAMBODIANS, WITH SEVEN EMBASSY FAMILIES, ONE STUDENT, AND THREE FROM BUSINESS COMMUNITY. (THERE ARE ALSO TWENTY-EIGHT VIETNAMESE WIVES OF ROK SERVICEMEN, WHO WOULD OF COURSE NOT BE INCLUDED IN ANY REFUGEE ASSISTANCE.) WE HAVE HEARD INFORMALLY
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THAT VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR PHAM XUAN CHIEU WISHES TO GO TO

THE US WITH HIS FAMILY, AND WE WOULD EXPECT OTHERS FROM HIS EMBASSY TO WANT TO FOLLOW SUIT.

4. ACCORDING TO MOFA, ROKG HAS NOT ADDRESSED ITSELF TO POTENTIAL REFUGEE PROBLEM, AS IT IS MORE IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED WITH QUESTION OF EVACUATING KOREANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS FROM VIETNAM. OVER LONG TERM, KOREA WOULD PROBABLY PROVE A DIFFICULT PLACE FOR CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE TO RESETTLE, BUT ROKG WOULD PROBABLY BE PREPARED TO OFFER THEM EXTENDED STAY AND SOME INTERIM ASSISTANCE. EMBASSY THEREFORE PLANS NO FURTHER ACTION AT THIS TIME, ALTHOUGH WE WILL MAINTAIN NECESSARY CONTACT WITH BOTH CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE.
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